Zoological.

Robert E. Griffith, John Cassin,
S. S. Haldeman, Edward Harris,
Edward Hallowell, William Gambel,
Joseph Leidy.

Botanical.

Robert Bridges, R. E. Griffith,
William S. Zantzinger, Gavin Watson,
Robert Kilvington.

Physics.

Walter R. Johnson, John S. Phillips,
Paul B. Goddard, Thomas C. Percival,
Samuel Powel.

Library.

R. Bridges, T. C. Percival,
S. B. Ashmead, Benjamin J. Kern,
M. Carey Lea.

Committee on Proceedings.

S. G. Morton, } *Corresponding and*
J. S. Phillips, } *Recording Secretaries,*
W. S. Zantzinger, } *ex-officio.*

Caleb Cope, Esq., William H. Dillingham, Esq., John Cooke, Esq., and the Rev. Kingston Goddard, of Philadelphia, and Robert B. Haines, Esq., of Germantown, were elected *Members*, and Dr. William Maxwell Wood, U. S. N., was elected a *Correspondent*.

February 1st, 1848.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

A communication was presented, entitled, "Descriptions of some new plants collected by Mr. William Gambel in the Rocky Mountains, and California, by Thomas Nuttall, F. L. S." Referred to Dr. Bridges, Mr. Gambel, and Dr. Zantzinger.

Dr. Leidy read a paper "On some peculiar bodies in the Boa constrictor, resembling the Pacinian corpuscles," which was referred to a committee, consisting of Drs. Hallowell, Morton, and Bridges.

Mr. Cassin, referring the Academy to a paper by Professor Percy, "On the management of Monkeys in captivity," published in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, for 1844, made some remarks on that subject.

He characterized Prof. Percy's observations as highly judicious and evidently the result of much experience,—he (Mr. C.) wished however to point out the fact, that in the enumeration of articles suitable for the diet of those animals in confinement, Prof. P. had mentioned on animal food, except milk, an omission difficult to account for, as Prof. P. observes in the same paper, "the Marmozet eats spiders with great avidity."

Mr. C. stated that it was a well known fact, that many of the American species fed not upon fruit solely, but also upon insects, bird's eggs, and even

birds, and he had also ascertained, that several African species not only devoured insects with eagerness, but also caught them with great dexterity. A specimen of the *Cercopithecus sabæus*, observed by him, was very fond of the common cockroach, and upon being furnished with a daily supply of that insect, actually recovered perfect health after symptoms of disease had made their appearance. This individual caught cockroaches with surprising adroitness, and when one escaped, he would watch for it to reappear with the patience and quiet of a cat.

Mr. C. stated as his opinion, that all the African monkeys (and perhaps all others) were insect eaters, and to a person aware of the large number and enormous size of many of the species of Coleoptera of Africa, it wood appear a reasonable supposition that those insects were eaten by monkeys.

All monkeys in confinement should be furnished with animal food, either insects, or raw mutton, or beef, cut into thin strips resembling worms, which he had found to be the best substitute.

Mr. C. stated that much of the disease of those animals in captivity, was doubtless to be attributed to the fact, that they were invariably, as far as he had observed, restricted to vegetable food.

February 8th, 1848.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Chairman read a letter addressed to him by Dr. R. W. Gibbes, dated Columbia, S. C., January 27th, 1848, enclosing another from Prof. Agassiz, addressed to Dr. Gibbes, dated Charleston, December 23d, 1847, and coinciding with him in the opinion that the *Basilosaurus*, of Harlan, or *Zeuglodon cetoides* of Owen, is generically distinct from the species described by Dr. Gibbes under the generic name of *Dorudon*, and published in these Proceedings. The following is a portion of the letter of Professor Agassiz :—

"I have examined the interesting fossil remains of Cetacea which you left with me yesterday. On one comparison, I have satisfied myself that Basilosaurus or *Zeuglodon cetoides*, is generically distinct from your second species, which you first described under the generic name of Dorudon. The hollowness of the teeth cannot be indicative of a mere young age of that animal, as the form of the lower jaw is altogether different in the two animals: Zeuglodon having a continuous fissure connecting the alveoli, and another groove along the edge of the jaw-bone, which are wanting in Dorudon. Besides, the posterior branch of the jaw is also different, the two lamellæ of the bone rising to the same height, and much higher in Zeuglodon, than in Dorudon, which has a deep depression upon its external surface, owing to the difference in the height of the two laminæ. Again, Zeuglodon has deep pits upon the external surface of the lower jaw, showing that the teeth of the upper jaw left an impression upon the lower, resting upon it, as in the crocodiles, of our days, when the mouth is shut. The other portions of the jaws of Dorudon are from the upper jaw, the one with one tooth being from the left side, the other with three teeth being from the right side. I am therefore sorry that you have withdrawn your genus, in deference to the suggestion of Prof. Owen, as he did not insist upon their generic identity, but rather alluded to the close affinity of these remains.

The isolated tooth, though imperfect, is highly interesting, as indicating a new genus of Sauroid Cetacea, allied to Megalosaurus by the form of the tooth, but differing by the form of its root. I would propose to call it *Sauro-cetus Gibbesii*. It will easily be distinguished from the fang of Dorudon, by its great flatness and acute serrated edge. In the form of these anterior teeth there is another generic difference between Zeuglodon and Dorudon, worth mentioning; in the former being blunt and short, whilst Dorudon has them acute and sharp upon the edges.

I thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to examine these highly